

UAE urges OPEC not to raise output

NIOSIA (R) — The United Arab Emirates Monday urged fellow OPEC members not to raise oil production to meet a shortage in supplies caused by Iraq's take-over of Kuwait, the Emirates News Agency WAM reported. "The United Arab Emirates asked members in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to effectively adhere to their output quota in the light of the current circumstances in the Gulf region," WAM said. The UAE and Saudi Arabia are among key producers with spare capacity as traders scramble for oil. World oil prices soared to their highest level in more than four years after Iraq, feeling the pinch of a U.S.-led embargo cut its exports by half and Kuwait's production halted. The agency said UAE Oil Minister Mansour Al Otaibi wrote to OPEC President Sadek Bouziane of Algeria to issue the call to the 13 member-states. He also sent a similar letter to OPEC Secretary-General Subroto of Indonesia. Otaibi's call came shortly after Iran, a price "hawk" urged other OPEC producers not to take advantage of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to pump more oil for quick profit.

Volume 15 Number 4460

AMMAN TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1990, MUHARRAM 16, 1411

Mauritanians volunteer for Iraq

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania (AP) — While governments worldwide condemned Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait, dozens of Mauritanians flocked to the Iraqi embassy Monday to volunteer to fight for Saddam Hussein. The surge of applications to join the "People's Army" in Kuwait coincided with a visit by Iraqi Transport Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zubaidi to thank the country for refusing to join a majority of Arab League members in condemning Iraq. Zubaidi was received by the Mauritanian head of state, Maouya Ahmad Taya. A report by the state-run Mauritanian News Agency said the two men discussed "the measures taken by Iraq to support the revolutionary government in Kuwait." It was the first time the Mauritanian media had made any mention of the invasion. Iraq was the only Arab state to support Mauritania during its recent border conflict with Senegal. A spokesman at the Iraqi embassy said officials in Baghdad had been informed about Mauritanians seeking to serve with the Iraqi-installed army in Kuwait. He said the embassy might proceed to register volunteers, but there was no indication the Mauritanian government would allow them to go.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation

جريدة الأردن تنشر يومياً معلومات موثوقة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)

King, UAE leader exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein had a telephone conversation Monday with the president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan, on the latest developments in the Gulf region. The UAE president thanked the King for his efforts to end the Iraq-Kuwait dispute and enquired about the latest developments. He also discussed efforts being made in order to find an Arab solution to the crisis that can prevent foreign intervention in the Gulf region.

Yemen leader in hospital

SANA (R) — Yemeni President Ali Abdulla Saleh, who has been shuttling between Arab capitals to try to resolve the Iraq-Kuwait crisis, entered hospital Monday. Radio Sanaa said Saleh went to the hospital for a medical check-up and diplomats said he was apparently suffering from exhaustion. Saleh has visited Iraq. He later flew to Saudi Arabia and Egypt which are also mediating to resolve the crisis. The radio said the Yemeni leader had talks on the Gulf crisis earlier Monday with an envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, National Assembly Speaker Saad Mehdi Saleh.

Homeless Israelis ask U.S. for refugee status

TEL AVIV (R) — Angry Israelis made homeless by a flood of Soviet immigration protested Monday at the U.S. consulate in Arad Jerusalem demanding that the United States accept them as refugees. "The housing ministry and the Israeli government are not able to absorb people like me," a woman demonstrator said in a radio broadcast. Rising housing costs in response to the immigration wave have forced hundreds of native Israelis out of their apartments in the last few months. About 200 homeless joined the protest demanding refugee status as immigrants to the United States.

Bashir opens talks on Sudan's future

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military ruler Monday inaugurated a 75-day conference which will discuss the form of the country's future political system. The conference's 500 participants, nominated by the government, chanted slogans calling for a system of Islamic consultation. Omar Hassan Al Bashir dissolved all political parties in Sudan when he took power in a military coup June 30, 1989. He has blamed them for the country's woes and has vowed never to revive them. Bashir urged the conference to avoid "the shortcomings of the previous political system." The conference is scheduled to end on Oct. 21.

Sheik Jaber sends envoys to capitals

GENEVA (R) — The emir of Kuwait has sent envoys to various world capitals to reassure Kuwait nationals in the wake of the Iraqi take-over and to request their solidarity, the Kuwait diplomatic mission in Geneva said Monday. As part of that drive, a representative of Sheik Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah spoke to about 200 Kuwaitis in an emotional meeting at the mission on Sunday, a source at the meeting said.

Sudan denies Chad charges

KHARTOUM (AP) — The Sudanese military government Monday denied Chadian allegations it was assembling an army of mercenaries with Libya and preparing to attack Chad. General Al Tigray Adam Al Tahir, a member of Sudan's ruling military council, described the Chadian government claims, made Wednesday, as "sheer, void allegations." Tahir's denial followed a similar one made by Libya a day after the Chadian accusations. Chad had accused Libya and Sudan of assembling an army of dissidents and mercenaries to launch a war against it rather than pursue negotiations.

Iraqis expect U.S. attack

Saddam Hussein warns Bush, says Iraq wants normal relations ● S. Arabia denies troop build-up on border ● Cheney in Jeddah

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq prepared to evacuate the capital and distributed weapons Monday in anticipation of an American attack, while warning that international sanctions against Iraq could delay Baghdad's troop pull-out from Kuwait.

In Saudi Arabia, U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney arrived in Jeddah Monday for talks with his counterpart Prince Sultan and other senior Saudi government figures.

Cheney was accompanied by Lieutenant-General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, head of the U.S. Middle East force known as the

Central Command. Richard Gates, deputy national security advisor, and Paul Wolfowitz, deputy defense secretary, were also with him.

Gulf-based diplomats said soldiers from the American rapid deployment force, formed to react to crises in the Middle East, had been dispatched to the area.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported that President Saddam Hussein met with U.S. Charge d'Affaires April Glaspie to deliver a warning to President Bush.

INA said he "warned against any act that might endanger the region's peace and security."

It was the first statement from the Iraqi president the news agency distributed since the invasion last Thursday. Most communication links with the country have been severed.

The president said that Iraq wanted to preserve peace in the region but confirmed "Iraq's capability to protect its sovereignty, interests and rights and its high and unlimited readiness to sacrifice for their protection, disregarding the degree of pressure or threats."

He denied that Iraq had any plans to attack Saudi Arabia, noting the non-aggression treaty

between the two, said INA, which said Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz attended the meeting.

The president suggested the reports about Iraqi troops massing near Saudi Arabia were "fabrications that would be used as an excuse for intervening in the region's affairs and to justify an attack against Iraq."

"Iraq and Saudi Arabia are tied by a no-aggression and non-interference pact and... Iraq respects its commitments," the agency quoted the president as saying during the meeting.

(Continued on page 3)

Security Council votes Iraq sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council overwhelmingly approved, including a ban on oil purchases.

The 15-member council voted 13-0, with two abstentions by Cuba and Yemen, to adopt the sanctions resolution proposed by the United States. It said Iraq had launched an armed attack against Kuwait and usurped the authority of the legitimate government.

The sanctions were intended to force Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait.

The resolution bans member nations from providing financial or economic resources to Iraq or to any commercial, industrial or public utility in Iraq or Kuwait. An exception was made for payments intended strictly for medical or humanitarian purposes.

It called upon all nations to "take appropriate measures to protect assets of the legitimate government of Kuwait and its agencies; and not to recognise any regime set up by the occupying power."

The resolution bars "the import into their territories of all commodities and products originating in Iraq or Kuwait and exported therefrom after the date of this resolution."

U.N. resolutions are legally binding on all U.N. members, although they often are flouted or ignored. The United Nations has

no enforcement mechanism but later could call on members to take military action against Iraq or impose a blockade.

It was the third time in its 45-year existence that the world body had voted sanctions against a member state. The last time was 1967 when the Security Council voted similar, comprehensive sanctions against the white minority government of Rhodesia. An arms embargo against South Africa still is in effect.

The council also formed a special committee to monitor compliance with the measures and called for U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to report within 30 days on the implementation of the resolution.

The council acted less than five days after Iraqi troops swept into Kuwait, installed a government backed by a "popular army."

Hours after the invasion, in a 14-to-zero vote last Thursday, condemned Iraq's action and demanded the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops.

Yemen declined to take part in last Thursday's vote, saying it had not received instructions.

The sanctions resolution, elements of which have already been implemented by several major powers, flatly rejects Iraq's report

(Continued on page 4)

Bush said planning covert action to topple Iraq leader

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush has ordered government agencies to draw up plans for possible covert action to topple President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, the Washington Post reported Monday. Senior administration officials appeared to confirm the effort.

Bush initiated the effort after receiving a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) evaluation that President Hussein already was in a position to manipulate world oil prices, the newspaper said, quoting informed sources.

"The CIA evaluation is that Saddam, flush with newly seized Kuwaiti oil reserves, will become a powerful, intimidating force inside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), driving up oil prices, fueling inflation and possibly throwing the United States into

recession and unmanageable fiscal difficulty," the paper said.

Bush, describing Iraq as a liar, dismissed its announcement Saturday that it had begun withdrawing some of the 100,000 troops that overran Kuwait Thursday.

"This will not stand, this aggression against Kuwait," Bush told a news conference after meeting with his national security advisors Sunday night.

The White House, calling it in the U.S. "national interest to stop Saddam Hussein," said Monday it was moving on diplomatic and military fronts to try to force the Iraqi president to withdraw Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

"However, it is true that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait threatens regional and world stability, threatens OPEC and could force severe economic consequences on the United States," Fife said.

"From the moment the first Iraqi soldier entered Kuwait, it has been clearly in the national interest to stop Saddam Hussein," said the White House spokesman.

"This is an overt situation. His

(Continued on page 3)

Oil price surges, stocks tumble over Gulf crisis

LONDON (R) — Oil prices surged and world stock values plunged Monday on financial markets stampeded by fears of wider conflict in the Gulf.

But the dollar, which investors initially saw as a safe haven when Iraq took over Kuwait at dawn last Thursday, took a tumble because of growing concern that the U.S. economy could be heading for the rocks of recession.

Media reports that Saudi Arabian troops were seen moving towards the frontier with Iraq kindled fresh worries that the conflict could widen, pitting the kingdom against the battlefield might of Iraq.

Oil prices took off as soon as Western financial centres reopened after a nervous weekend. Crude oil prices around Asia were marked up \$3 a barrel and that increase was topped after European centres opened for business.

North Sea Brent, the most widely traded international crude, added \$3.50 to be talked around \$26.45 a barrel for

September loading, close to 4½ year highs.

The prospect of an oil shortage because of a Western boycott of Iraqi exports gave crude prices an extra twist. "It has been absolute pandemonium," said Peter Gignoux, a London-based director with trading house Shearson Lehman Hutton.

Dearer oil would mean higher inflation for the West. The prospect sent jitters through stock exchanges from Tokyo to Wall Street and Singapore to Stockholm.

The Nikkei stock average tumbled 916.23 points or 3.1 per cent to 28,599.53 after a 729.42 point slide Friday.

"It is now beginning to look like the oil price will stick around \$25 a barrel which has serious implications for inflation rates worldwide," said John Reynolds, equity strategist at London broker County Natwest.

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The Financial Times Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares nosedived from the opening bell to close 64.4 points down

at 2,220.2, a drop of 2.8 per cent.

"The market is twisting and turning and could end up anywhere," said one dealer. "If one bullet is fired between Iraq and Saudi Arabia then the FTSE index could lose 100 points."

Dealers said there was no widespread sell-off behind the fall, just a markdown by sellers trying to tempt buyers. "The market is just drifting nervously and the buyers are sticking to the sidelines until confidence returns," said one.

But in New York, the Dow Jones industrial index tumbled more than 100 points in the first hour of trading, but recovered somewhat as midday on Wall Street approached. "We have the beginning of panic selling," said Kenneth Germino, who heads an investment management firm.

The dollar hit hard times. Friday's Washington data showing a 5.5 per cent rise in U.S. unemployment in July was seen as the latest signpost on the road to recession.

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Iraq cuts oil flow through Turkey

ANKARA (Agencies) — With an international embargo cutting down on customs for its oil, Iraq Monday stopped pumping crude through one of its pipelines in Turkey and reduced the flow in the other.

An official of the state-run Turkish pipeline company Botas said pumping stopped at one of the two pipelines at 5 p.m. (1400 GMT).

Iraq also reduced flow in the second, wider, pipeline to 70 per cent of capacity.

The United States, the European Community (EC), Japan and several other countries had imposed an embargo on Iraqi oil purchases following Iraq's take-over of Kuwait last week.

The Iraqi decision came after tankers waiting to be loaded at the terminal of the pipeline had sailed away without loading in compliance with the embargo, according to pipeline company officials.

A Botas official said all the countries participating in the embargo purchase their Iraqi crude from the Turkish outlet.

The two pipelines pump Iraqi crude from the Kirkuk oilfields in northern Iraq to a terminal at Yumurtalik at the northeastern tip of the Mediterranean Sea.

The pipelines carry 70 million tons of crude oil annually, providing the outlet for the major share of Iraqi exports.

With one pipeline shut down and the other's flow reduced, the annual output of Iraqi crude from the pipelines will be down by half, said one official.

Iraq's daily output is reportedly 2.7 million barrels, of which 1.5 million barrels flows through the Turkish pipelines. Now only about 750,000 tons will be pumped through the Turkish connection, said the oil company, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Iraqi move came a day after a high-ranking Iraqi official, dispatched by President Saddam Hussein, was in Ankara for a meeting with Turkish President Turgut Ozal.

Apparently confident despite her dismissal, she told a news conference at her official residence in the capital Islamabad that Ishaq Khan's action was "illegal and unconstitutional." The central committee of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) would meet soon to decide whether to challenge the order in court of law. In dissolving the National Assembly, the law-making lower house of parliament, Ishaq Khan said Bhutto's government was corrupt and politically inept. As head of state, Ishaq Khan has the constitutional power to dissolve the government.

At a hastily called news conference, Ishaq Khan said: "The government has willfully undermined and impaired the work of the constitution, resulting in discord, confrontation and deadlock, adversely affecting the integrity, solidarity and well-being of Pakistan."

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Arafat, Mubarak said to discuss Gulf plan

CAIRO (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat held talks with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak Monday over a plan diplomats say links an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait with territorial and financial gains for Baghdad.

"I prefer to be silent," Arafat said when asked about a plan to end the crisis and draw up in consultation with Arab leaders, notably Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Libya's Muammar Qaddafi and Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The plan, Arab diplomats said, includes a proposal for elections in Kuwait to choose a new government in the wake of an Iraqi troop withdrawal.

They said that in return for a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and free elections in the emirate, it was proposed that Iraq would receive Kuwaiti payments as well as control of the strategic Bubiyan Island.

Bubiyan, under Kuwaiti sovereignty, dominates the Khor Abdallah waterway at the head of the Gulf.

Mubarak, along with other Arab leaders, has been anxious to secure an Arab solution to Thursday's invasion without outside intervention.

But there was no official confirmation of the set of proposals when Arafat finished his talks with Mubarak at a seaside restau-

rance near Alexandria.

"The situation is very critical and President Hosni Mubarak is holding intensive contacts with his brothers the leaders of Arab states to explore possible avenues of movement to take us out of this crisis," Mubarak's top aide Osama Al-Baz told reporters.

Arafat arrived from Baghdad for the second round of talks with Mubarak in two days. Baz said Arafat, flying aboard an Iraqi jet, would go on an Arab tour to brief Arab leaders.

During the 1980-88 war with Iran, Baghdad pleaded with Kuwait for the use or hire of Bubiyan Island as a springboard for attacks on Iranian forces occupying the Fao Peninsula.

In another development, Iraqi Ambassador to Egypt Nabil Negm said Monday that relations between Cairo and Baghdad were good, despite Egypt's condemnation of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Negm was speaking to reporters after being summoned to a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid.

"What we are concerned with is having clear and brotherly ties with Egypt," Negm said. "Our ties with Egypt are good and will continue to be as they were."

Egypt, linked with Iraq in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), has condemned Bagh-

dad's invasion of Kuwait and demanded an unconditional and immediate withdrawal of its troops.

Abdul Meguid later told reporters the Foreign Ministry had called in Negm to ensure that Egyptians in Kuwait were being well treated.

"My meeting with Negm focused on the treatment of Egyptians in Kuwait and Egypt's concern that they get all necessary protection and care," Abdul Meguid said.

"I informed the ambassador that.. there have been some accidents. We feel that the Iraqi leadership would never agree to any acts against Egyptian nationals... in a brotherly Arab country," Abdul Meguid added.

There are believed to be several thousand Egyptians living and working in Kuwait. Cairo said last week that five Egyptians were wounded in the invasion.

Negm denied that Iraqis were leaving Cairo and said a plane load of Iraqis who left Egypt Monday were tourists whose holidays had ended.

Egypt's national Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported that 140 Iraqis had left Cairo Monday for Jordan.

Quoting an Iraqi Airways official, MENA said the Iraqis would travel from Amman to Baghdad by road.

Kuwaiti tourists stranded in Austria

VIENNA (AP) — Many Kuwaiti tourists, caught unaware by the Iraqi invasion, have found themselves stranded without access to cash to pay hotel bills or buy plane tickets after Kuwaiti assets were frozen.

In Vienna, some 1,000 tourists from Kuwait were faced with sudden financial problems, the Kuwaiti embassy reported.

Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the United States and other countries froze Kuwaiti assets to prevent Iraq from seizing them. Austria also froze all Kuwaiti accounts, including personal accounts.

The embassy spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said tourists from his country of 1.9 million faced similar problems around the world.

"They can't stay in Austria, but sometimes also don't have the money to leave or to pay their bills," the spokesman said.

On Monday, the Kuwaiti mission to the United Nations in Geneva issued a statement saying: "His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, has called on representatives to travel to capitals where there are Kuwaiti nationals to reassure them and deal with their problems. Kuwaiti representatives have urged citizens to pull together and cooperate with each other."

The spokesman in the Kuwaiti's embassy in Geneva refused to comment on the amount of funds available to help stranded Kuwaitis.

Luxury hotels in Vienna showed understanding towards the stranded tourists, as many were regular customers. An official of one hotel said that a letter of credit was sufficient to overcome the difficulties of settling the bill.

In Geneva, Kuwaiti mission spokesman Abdul Aziz Abu Zeid said that Kuwaiti tourists in Switzerland had so far not experienced any financial problems.

Israeli youths found killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Searchers on Monday found two stabbed and tied bodies of Jewish teenagers last seen hitch-hiking to a settlement in the occupied West Bank, and police promptly blamed the slayings on Palestinians.

The killings sparked riots by dozens of angry Israelis who stopped Arab-owned cars on highways and showered them with rocks and cinderblocks. At least six Palestinians were injured and dozens of car windows were smashed, police said.

In one case, demonstrators trapped and stoned a Palestinian bus, forcing the about 70 passengers to lie on the floor, an Associated Press reporter saw. One passenger had a bloodied head.

Police imposed a curfew while searching for suspects in Beit Hanina, site of previous clashes in the 32-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, issued a statement saying:

"Very sadly we are going to have to live with this tension for a long time yet. I have no answers, but I believe that we must build and strengthen united Jerusalem and not lose our ideals or our goals even in painful hours like these."

Israeli passions have been inflamed since a pipe-bomb blast last week killed a Jewish Canadian teenager and wounded 18 other sunbathers on a Tel Aviv beach. Police detained eight Palestinians from the occupied Ramot, in Arab Jerusalem.

The army promptly clamped a curfew on the nearby village of Beit Hanina, which is just beyond the city limits in the West Bank. No suspects were immediately detained.

Tabul and Karamani were last seen Saturday evening on the outskirts of Ramot. They had told friends they were headed to the West Bank settlement Givat Ze'ev, about five kilometres away to visit girlfriends.

In southern Jerusalem, Israeli protesters stoned cars with West Bank license plates on a main thoroughfare, smashing 15 windows, police said.

News of the slayings sparked

anti-Arab demonstrations in several Jerusalem neighbourhoods.

In southern Jerusalem, on a main highway from Jerusalem to the West Bank town of Bethlehem, about 150 Israeli women and teenagers stopped Arab-owned cars and showered them with stones and cinderblocks from about two metres away.

Some of the protesters chanted "Death to the Arabs" and waved flags of the anti-Arab Kach movement headed by New York-born rabbi Meir Kahane.

An AP reporter saw 12 Arab-owned cars with smashed windows. Three abandoned cars were burned.

Police later erected road blocks, closing the stretch of road to Palestinians.

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CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swieifek Tel. 810740.

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632825, 668326.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terrassa Church Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Assumption International Church Tel. 685326.

Aujoud Hin en Jordanie News in French

News in Hebrew

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 615817, 654932.

Heart of the High Country News in English

Paradise Police Squad

PROGRAMME ONE

17:45 Fusion

18:10 Des chiffres et des lettres

18:30 Tel Paris Tel Fils

19:00 News in French

19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie

News in Hebrew

20:30 News in Arabic

20:30 Golden Circle

21:10 Heart of the High Country News in English

22:00 Paradise Police Squad

22:30 Fair

22:45 (Sunrise) Dalia

23:10 Dhuhr

23:22 'Asr

23:33 Maghrib

23:40 Isha

PROGRAMME TWO

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19:00 News in French

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23:33 Maghrib

23:40 Isha

PROGRAMME THREE

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Shreideh announces women's federation executive committee

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Social Development Abdal Majid Shreideh Monday announced the names of the executive committee of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) as elected at last Friday's meeting in Amman.

The committee is chaired by Mahiedeh Zainelli and includes the following members: Iman Abdul Oader Arabiyat, Basma Heiou, Sakaa Abdul Aziz Al Majali, Fideh Badran, Abeer Al Akhras, Mariam Shamim, Hafiza Kamal and Halimah Al Ami.

The nine members, the minis-

ter said, were elected unopposed as a result of boycott by activists.

He also announced the names of eight other women who, he said, would also serve as additional members of the executive committee because they are heads of GFJW's branches around the country. These are: Amal Amoush from Mafrag, Amal Wâhdan from Zarqa, Rihab Al Majali from Karak, Samirah Hemooud from Irbid, Salwa Abdul Oader from Balqa, Munira Touqan from Maan, Nawa Rabab'a from Tafleah and Hiyam Al Taber from Amman.

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The nine members, the minis-

JEPCO, workers' union dispute remains unresolved

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) and the Electricity Workers' Union failed to resolve their three-month old dispute in their second joint meeting Monday.

"We accepted the government formula but the company did not," Walid Khayyat, head of the electricity union, said Monday. The Ministry of Labour last week tabled a formula which involved a compromise on salary increases sought by almost 2,000 employees and an endorsement of demands for administrative reforms and other workers' rights.

The union president said the company refused to increase salaries according to the government formula and was only willing to give a JD 5 cost of living allowance increase across the board. The company is not willing to adopt the government and union position on salaries because an increase in the basic salary would result in higher compound wages. The government formula

proposes increases of JD 8 for each employee falling under grades 15 to eight (against JD 12 sought by the union), JD 5 for grades seven to five (against JD 8 demanded by the union) and JD 3 for grades four to one.

The ministry supported a union demand for a straight JD 20 increase for unclassified employees, who now make about JD 54 every month. Minister of Labour Qaseem Obeidat estimated that the proposed increase would cost the company approximately JD 30,000 annually.

According to Khayyat, the minister, who chaired the joint meeting Monday, gave the company and the union three days to reassess their positions before holding another meeting Thursday.

Obeidat said last week that the compromise formula was the ministry's "final position" on the dispute. "If it (the compromise formula) is rejected then the issue will go to arbitration," he said.

The government formula

to an industrial court if arbitration failed," the minister said.

The union, however, has threatened to strike Aug. 15 if their demands are not met.

"We will cooperate fully to try to reach an agreement," Khayyat said. "But if we do not agree we will stop work as of Aug. 15." According to a Ministry of Labour official once the dispute goes to arbitration the strike will be considered illegal.

The compromise formula proposed by the ministry also provides for setting up a panel of three legal experts — representing the Ministry of Labour, JEPCO and the union — to draw up a legal framework for the company's personnel and salary structure to be submitted to the board of JEPCO.

Khayyat said that workers' wages were low and that 1,640 employees get a basic salary of less than JD 150. "Of the 1,640 (workers), 1,000 get a basic salary of less than JD 100. Company officials were not available for comment.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 14 participants in a regional training course on air pollution representing six countries in the Near East region Monday visited the Civil Defence Department (CDD) and were briefed by senior officers on services offered to the public.

They also visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) where they inspected the environmental and air pollution laboratories and the downtown air pollution monitoring station.

Earlier the participants discussed the subject of air pollution control and environmental impact of air pollution and its assessment and air pollution and human health.

The discussions and the tours came on the third day of a six-day meeting which was organised at the Amman-based Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA) by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in cooperation with the Health Ministry.

The RSS's station in Amman last March released the result of a three-year programme on moni-

toring air in and around the capital revealing heavy pollution of the atmosphere especially around the city centre which is normally congested by traffic.

According to CEHA the training course aims primarily at raising the level of knowledge of the participants in selected technical and legislative aspects of air pollution and its control.

An address delivered on behalf of the WHO regional director

said that member states of the Eastern Mediterranean region

were faced with a wide array of environmental hazards which might have acute or chronic effects on the health of its population.

These, he said, include environmental pollutants and hazardous substances which, if not controlled, can increase in number and severity due to industrialisation, urbanisation and development in general.

Countries represented are Jordan, Syria, Sudan, Iran, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has set up an independent committee to take charge of the management of the Jordan Gulf Bank and to supervise its performance prior to restructuring the bank's capital in order to allow it to function normally, CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi announced Monday.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Nabulsi said that the committee was supervising the Jordan Gulf Bank's operations, and assuming the authorities of a board of directors in accordance with the Jordanian companies' law.

The Jordan Gulf Bank, he added, is conducting all forms of normal banking services through its various branches and the CBJ will continue to support this bank to enable it to maintain these services.

Last month Nabulsi said that

the Jordan Gulf Bank had a deficit of JD 27 million but the nature of its problem was different from that of Petra Bank which was liquidated because of mismanagement and delay in taking proper action when needed.

"Petra Bank collapsed as a direct result of criminal actions and illegal proceedings combined with poor management," he said.

"It will be possible to deal with the Jordan Gulf Bank by restructuring its capital and by applying what is called refloating of the bank after proper measures had been taken to prepare for this step," Nabulsi noted.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

Established 1975

جريدة عربية مستقلة تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة العربية الأردنية

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Telex: 23497 ALRAI JO

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Tips of interest to U.S. policy-makers

THE NEWS that was coming out of Washington yesterday was disturbing. President George Bush was beating the drums of war, we were told early in the day. He was requesting people to read his lips when he was asked about using the military option against Iraq. And then he went on to accuse the Iraqis of "lying" and all sorts of things in regard to their commenced withdrawal from Kuwait. The U.S. president even cast doubts about Jordan's position vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis, as if he does not know better.

The news that the American defence secretary flew into Saudi Arabia came next. Why did the man go there? And how did the Saudis receive him at such a time? people wondered. His arrival came at a time when the Americans were, first, beating the drums of war, and second, whipping up a frenzy about an impending invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq.

And if the other news about the U.S. and other NATO allies continuing and beefing up their naval build-up in Gulf waters was not enough, there came a dispatch from the Washington Post saying that the Bush Administration had ordered U.S. government agencies to begin planning covert activity to destabilise and eventually topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Informed sources were quoted by the newspaper as saying Bush initiated the planning over the past several days after being told by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) that the Iraqi president, already in a position to manipulate world oil prices, was a "ruthless" leader bent on making his country the Arab superpower.

The news was indeed disturbing, but not surprising, given the feverish pitch that the campaign against Iraq and its president had reached, even well before Iraqi forces moved into Kuwait last Thursday.

It was disturbing in the sense that the U.S. has not learned any useful lessons from its past experiences in this area and was bringing the region closer to the point where any miscalculation on the part of any party was bound to set the Middle East ablaze before anybody, including the Americans themselves, knew it. The news was not surprising, however, simply because in its enmity towards Iraq and its government the U.S. was expected to use psychological warfare to demoralise the Iraqi leadership or drive it into doing something that would go against its own interest.

His Majesty King Hussein pointed out in his interview with CBS news' Dan Rather on Sunday that he did not honestly know whether the U.S. would use military force against Iraq in the Gulf. But that if it did, everybody, the man in the street in the forefront, would fight against the Americans.

The experience and foresight that His Majesty possesses are too great for anyone to belittle. We, therefore, think it possible that what might easily pass as psychological warfare could in fact be a precursor for military intervention in the area.

Such an option, as the King stressed in the CBS interview, would be catastrophic and devastating — not only to the people and resources of the Middle East but also to the interests and well-being of humanity as a whole.

Thus the military option has to be ruled out. But if the American Administration does not know how to do it, then Dan Rather should probably re-run the tape of his interview with the King for them. In it there are, for U.S. policy-makers, some very useful tips. Iraq will withdraw from Kuwait within the framework of an Arab settlement that will satisfy all. Iraq will not attack nor invade Saudi Arabia. Saddam Hussein himself said that in an audience with the U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad yesterday, Baghdad wants to reach understanding and have normal relations with Washington and the rest of the world based on mutual respect for each other. Again, the Iraqi president personally stated this to the American diplomat on Monday. President Saddam is not a new Hitler, nor is he a loose tiger. He is an Arab patriot whose higher ideal is the service of the Arab peoples and their interests. Attempts to destabilise him would backfire and be harmful to all. All Arabs would come to Iraq's help if attacked by the U.S., Israel or any other foreign power. Those Arabs who will acquiesce in such aggression will be doomed.

The list of useful tips to America is long and may be taxing to most Americans. But it is a must reading for those who make the decisions in the American capital.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A columnist in Al Ra'i's daily discusses the plight of the Kuwaiti nationals who have been stranded in Jordan and other Arab states and foreign countries because of the events in their country. Mahmoud Al Kayed who is also the editor of Al Ra'i's daily says that there is no doubt that this situation has created difficulties for the Kuwaiti nationals or Jordanians and Palestinians spending their holiday in the Kingdom. But, he notes, that thanks to the Jordanian government measures, matters have been arranged for the Kuwaitis and Jordanian expatriates working in Kuwait to benefit from certain plans placed at their disposal until matters clear up and they can once again contact Kuwait or return there. The Jordanian government has offered facilities to the stranded people, making them feel at home, and taking arrangements at the banks, hotel and other institutions to help ease the difficulties for them, the writer notes. He says that it is natural for Jordan and the Jordanian people to act in such manner, because they really cherish respect and affection towards Arab people from all countries.

King: Foreign military action will be fatal

(Continued from page 1)

Could you have one Arab state invading, conquering and occupying another Arab state, though there are those who say there already have been claims?

A: I believe there are certain degrees of crisis. We have not reached the full limit of what can happen in this area. For one have always stood for inadversely for the acquisition of territory by force as is my country, and, at the same time this is the principle we have upheld throughout our political life, and we are very sorry this has happened. But I believe there are many signs of (danger) unless there is a solution to the problem that affected millions of people who have just come out of a war that lasted eight years and affects people in the area in general.

What has happened is that we can somehow resolve this problem within the Arab context and the Kuwaitis and the Iraqis can resolve this once and for all and that there will be a turning point insofar as our relations are concerned in the future. A deeper look into the real problems that exist in this area would enable us to forge together but if pressures continue I am very afraid of the results.

Q: Now to follow on a number of things which you raised, we will first try to establish what the facts are at the moment. Saddam Hussein said he will begin withdrawing his troops today. Is he doing that?

A: As to the best of my knowledge the withdrawal has begun. I do not have any further details today of what has happened so far.

Q: Is it to say that while you believe he has started withdrawal you have no specific evidence or testimony to the fact?

A: To the best of my knowledge at this moment I am aware of the announcement of the withdrawal in the beginning of the withdrawal but I do not have any details what have been going there in the Gulf.

Q: If withdrawal has begun when do you expect it to be completed?

A: The commitment made by Iraq from the very beginning to us that they will begin withdrawal within days and that it would probably take longer than weeks at the maximum, I really do not know what the time is. However, if there is a threat of external pressure or intervention in the military sense I believe that it could be counter-productive and it could be in a far worse situation than we are facing at the moment.

Q: Do you believe that Mubarak was among those positioning himself and positioning that part of the Arab World he believes he represents in a certain way?

Q: Is it true or not true that the Iraqi forces are massed on the Saudi border?

S: I do not believe it is true.

Q: Is it true or not true that the Iraqi forces have entered the neutral zone or buffer zone?

A: I am not on the ground and do not have any one to advise me of whether it is or otherwise. But Iraq and Saudi Arabia have defined their border and they are long borders. If Iraqi forces were in Kuwait then they would be on the border of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and if they are beginning to withdraw I hope this would apply to all these forces. If there is a threat of the possible intervention of outsiders I do not know where we will go from here.

Q: You have known Saddam Hussein for a long time. You believe or you do not believe that he intends to go into Saudi Arabia?

A: I do not believe he intends to go into Saudi Arabia.

Q: Has he himself told you that?

A: He has told me that.

Q: When was the last time you saw him?

A: Two days ago.

Q: Please give us some sense of not just who and what he is but where is he at the moment psychologically, motivationally where is he and who is he?

A: I believe he is a man who has gone through a very difficult experience who managed to hold his country together for over eight years of war and beyond, who has built his country up, who believes in the Arab World and who seeks to serve it and who is built up as a patriot. I have known him. I believe he has been the target of attacks from many quarters recently. But I believe this was really (a response) to the fact that Iraq represented something new in the area, a sense of a people united, a sense of a people who survived a terrible (period) defending the Arab Order and that represented a threat to some within the area and outside unfortunately. This is where we are at the moment. I do not believe that Saddam Hussein is acting on impulse. He spoke of the situation at the Arab summit before all the Arab leaders describing the situation regarding oil as almost an active war against Iraq...

Q: When was the last time you talked to President Bush?

A: Three days ago from Alexandria.

Q: And, in brief, what did you tell him?

A: We spoke about the situation. He expressed his concern, deep concern, about what was happening and I did tell him that the belief I had, which I still have, was that Iraq was committed to withdraw from Kuwait. And he welcomed that news and he expressed his concern about American lives and I said it was extremely legitimate and so were we.

I spoke to the Iraqi president about American lives and about foreigners in the area and he expressed to me his concern as well that he will do everything he could to ensure that they are safe....

Q: You mentioned several times your concern about intimidation. Do you believe there is a real present danger of a military move by the West led by the United States?

A: I believe that there is a danger and I believe the danger is again in receiving again the wrong signals and coming to the wrong conclusions. There has been certainly a world polarisation.

King replied: It has unfortunately involved some of us within the Arab World. We were working very hard to get a summit that could include Iraq and some of us to try to resolve this problem. This has hindered us from doing so. I do not know what the end result would be, but persuasion and good sense would. And my feeling is that we as Arabs ought to have a chance to try our best to resolve this problem.

Q: You spent your lifetime preparing for leadership and exercising leadership, and you can see Bush's situation clearly; he is a peaceful person. On the other hand there are many people who are saying to him, "a tiger is loose around the Persian Gulf." You, Mr. President, have the status of the only person who can keep the tiger from devouring others, so you must move now in a bold, decisive move to match the bold, decisive move of the tiger." That's a powerful argument.

A: There are other tigers in the area that have been loose for a long period of time and what surprises me very much indeed with the recent positive development in the world was that this area's problems were not addressed. Such a tiger exists in our neighbour — Israel — and its continued occupation of the land it has occupied and its annexation of the Syrian Golan and Jerusalem. So there are tigers in the area and maybe one creates another.

Q: Now to follow on a number of things which you raised, we will first try to establish what the facts are at the moment. Saddam Hussein said he will begin withdrawing his troops today. Is he doing that?

A: As to the best of my knowledge the withdrawal has begun. I do not have any further details today of what has happened so far.

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Q: Do you believe that Mubarak was among those positioning himself and positioning that part of the Arab World he believes he represents in a certain way?

A: Yes. I do not believe any confirmation but what I felt very frankly during the last few days was that there were pressures applied out only to bring the majority in the world in line but also to even influence Arab logic and decision-making to go along to justify the possibility of some military action on the top of economic and other actions in the area and what I am trying to say, and please believe me all, is that intimidation does not work, that it could be counter-productive and it could be in a far worse situation than we are facing at the moment.

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I certainly hope that the question of hostages can be resolved as soon as possible. We have been shocked and we have been anguished by what has happened and by the suffering of the families of these hostages and we believe in the possibility of Iraqis and Kuwaitis resolving this problem with our help and certainly as far as relations between Arab states are concerned they



A-BOMB DOME: The A-bomb dome, the hollow remains of the former Hiroshima Industrial Promotion Hall, stands in the ruins as a symbol of the destruction of the world's first atom bomb attack.

'That this evil shall never be repeated'

By Janice Fafman
The Associated Press

TOKYO — When Hiroshima remembers the atom bomb it is with a flock of doves and a mournful tolling of bells. On the central monument to the bomb victims is a prayer "that this evil shall never be repeated".

Forty-five years after the United States waged the world's first atom bomb attack, Hiroshima continues to lay the grim realities of nuclear war before the world.

But most remembrances of Aug. 6, 1945, in Japan focus on the horror of the instrument of war and the 140,000 deaths it caused, and rarely on the responsibility of the warring nations.

When Hiroshima unveiled a refurbished peace memorial museum last year, 16 groups of citizens, bomb victims and labour unions demanded the city include an "aggressor's corner" that would focus on Japan's role in World War II.

City officials refused the demand. In a written statement, the city quoted former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who said in 1988 that it was unclear that Japan was an aggressor in World War II.

The purpose of this museum is to bear witness to what happened on Aug. 6 in Hiroshima," said Yoshitaka Kawamoto, president of the museum.

The museum's exhibits call the attack a genocide and note that it was aimed at civilians.

Several right-wing groups, such as the Great Japan Patriots Party, also opposed a display on Japan's aggression.

"If we had a display about Japan's aggressive role, people will think it is natural for aggressors to be atom-bombed," said Toru Kataoka, manager of the Peace Culture Centre, which is housed in one of three major buildings at the peace park. "It opposes our basic policy on the museum, which is to pray for the victims."

More than 20,000 of those victims were Koreans, brought here as slave labour during Japan's 35-year colonization of the neighboring Korean peninsula.

They have seldom been recognized. But a turning point seemed to have come last May when South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo visited Japan, only the second Korean head of state to do so.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu extended to Roh "sincere remorse and honest apologies" for Japanese actions that "inflicted unbearable suffering and sorrow on the people of the Korean peninsula."

During the visit, Japan and Korea agreed to create a 4 billion yen (\$26.8 million) fund for Koreans still suffering from bomb-related ailments.

In his annual peace declaration at Monday's ceremony, Mayor Takeshi Araki will for the first time call for financial and medical support for atomic bomb survivors on the Korean peninsula.

But when South Koreans built a monument in 1970 to honour their countrymen who died from

the bombing, city officials said there was no room in the peace memorial park, citing 20 monuments there already.

The Koreans kept up the pressure and last May, the city relented.

The monument was scheduled to be moved inside the park in time for the 45th anniversary, but disputes between groups representing those loyal to the Seoul government and those supporting the communist government of North Korea have delayed the move.

The two groups now say they will build a new monument inside the park, but planning has reached an impasse. They can't agree on how a plaque on the monument should represent the rival governments on the Korean peninsula.

Kawamoto also said the museum is planning a display on Korean victims. "We're preparing videos and displays on them, as a historical fact."

But many are hoping it won't be the selective history that official accounts of the war, such as in school texts, have embraced in the past.

Concern by officials of Southeast Asian countries about the rise of Japan as a military power prompted Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama to reassure a recent gathering of regional foreign ministers that Japan does not intend to rebuild its military strength.

Southeast Asian countries are afraid that trade tensions between the United States and Japan could threaten the close U.S.-Japan security arrangement, in place for three decades, and lead to a bigger military role for Japan in the region.

Nakayama reportedly told the foreign ministers, "Japan looks back with humility on the suffering it inflicted on the nations of Asia in the last war."

Under its so-called peace constitution, Japan is banned from building up an offensive capability. Its self-defense forces are made up of 274,000 men and women.

A tentative plan for next fiscal year's military budget increases spending by just under 6 per cent, the slowest growth since 1981.

In Hiroshima, efforts to preserve the horrific experience continue. Last year, the city collected more than \$2.5 million in public donations to preserve the A-Bomb Dome, the skeletal remains of a building left standing near the hypocentre.

Preserving the A-Bomb Dome is important "because its ravaged state sounds a warning about the potential for humanity to destroy itself with nuclear weapons," Mayor Araki said last year.

Most Japanese observe the atomic bombings mournfully, each year adding names of those who have died in the past year from lingering effects of radiation. Japan officially abhors nuclear arms, and there are numerous anti-nuclear and other peace groups in the country.

Nagasaki was bombed three days after Hiroshima, and Japan capitulated on Aug. 15, 1945.

Business protocol — an ingredient of success

For instance, she says, it's a faux pas to talk business over dinner in France. Do so and you'll be seen as an oaf, fair game for some cutting French wit. Similarly, one should never jot down a name or number on a business card in Japan. Such cards are taken very seriously and should not be treated in a cavalier manner.

By Tony Rogers
The Associated Press

BOSTON — At a business dinner in Paris, an American executive scoops up a business card from a Japanese counterpart, scribbles his number on it and hands it to a Saudi Arabian on his left.

Wrong, wrong and wrong.

Dorothy Manning would say.

Manning is a cultural consultant whose job is to guide globe-trotting CEO's through the thicket of international customs that can ensnare the best-planned business deal.

For instance, she says, it's a faux pas to talk business over dinner in France. Do so and you'll be seen as an oaf, fair game for some cutting French wit.

Similarly, one should never jot down a name or number on a business card in Japan. Such cards are taken very seriously and should not be treated in a cavalier manner.

In Saudi Arabia, it is the height of poor manners to pass documents with the left hand. Why? The left hand is used for bathroom functions.

"Other countries are small, they depend on external commerce," Manning says. "The Japanese thoroughly study us, and the Europeans grew up in a situation where they have to deal with other countries."

"Up until now we've been so big and strong, it hasn't been necessary," Manning adds.

No more.

With Europe united, the Japanese economic juggernaut is steaming ahead and communism crumbling in the East Bloc, American business must compete in an ever-expanding global market. That means plenty of opportunity for consultants like Manning, who charges between about \$350 and \$750 a day per executive.

Holding up two fingers will get you a cab quickly in the Soviet Union. But think twice before doing so — two fingers mean you'll pay double.

But sometimes even the cultural consultants can err. Manning organised 8 a.m. breakfast forums on business protocol for international executives.

All was well, until she realised that the timing for some might be off.

"The Moroccans brought it up right away," Manning says. "They said they didn't get up that early."

such consultants. Although it can be difficult to persuade corporate management to pay for cultural consulting, he doesn't doubt the value.

"The money is well spent," Mandicott said Monday. "If you go abroad and offend your host and lose the contract, what's the cost of that?"

Manning says the central problem in doing business internationally is establishing trust.

"People tend not to trust each other because they don't understand each other," she says. "If you see someone who dresses differently, who has different customs, you're not sure they're being open with you until you know that's normal for them."

Of course, what's normal from one country to the next can vary quite widely.

For instance, in many Muslim countries, written contracts don't exist. And in Korea, contracts are viewed not as a binding pact but a document from which to depart if conditions change.

Other tips for the international executive:

— Don't send chrysanthemums to a colleague in France. They are a symbol of death.

— Never show the sole of your foot to an associate in Saudi Arabia. Doing so implies you feel you can tread upon someone, and is very insulting.

— Holding up two fingers will get you a cab quickly in the Soviet Union. But think twice before doing so — two fingers mean you'll pay double.

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Soviets dominate boxing finals at Goodwill Games

SEATTLE. Washington (R) — Soviet fighters won four of six titles on the last day of Goodwill Games boxing to edge the U.S. team for gold honours in the eight-day tournament.

Three of the six Sunday finals matched U.S. and Soviet boxers, with the Soviets taking two of them to bring their gold tally to five — one more than the young Americans.

The powerhouse seven-man Cuban team, which includes four world amateur champions, came away with just two golds.

Super heavyweight Yevgeni Belousov got the Soviets started with a 3-2 decision over American Larry Donald in the opening bout of the day.

Belousov outpointed Donald with rapid, well-timed combinations. "I had a plan for him — no in-fighting, no slugging, mostly counter-punching," Belousov said.

"I was more or less going up against a bear," Donald said.

Soviet Andrei Kurnyavka, the world amateur middleweight champion, completed a golden performance as a light heavyweight by outboxing American Terry McGroarty to win 5-0.

American Eric Griffin, the world light flyweight champion, delivered the only U.S. victory against the Soviets Sunday with a convincing 5-0 decision over Anatoli Filipov.

Filipov tried to trap the American against the ropes in the first two rounds, but Griffin was too quick and scored with fast shots to the head.

In the last round the boxers slugged it out at mid-ring, with Griffin getting the best of the exchanges.

"It was kind of close the first two rounds. The third round I really came on," Griffin said.

Soviet world light middleweight champion Israel Akopkhanian edged world number two East German Torsten Schmitz in a 3-2 decision that drew hoots from the crowd.

Schmitz forced the pace of the fight, constantly attacking the Soviet, who stood back and relied on quick jabs to score.

"I felt I was winning all the way, but I was nervous about the decision," said Akopkhanian, who has 302 amateur bouts.

Schmitz was disappointed. "In many decisions the results are different than the way the fight went," he said.

Soviet light welterweight Konstantin Tszyu beat compatriot Aleksandr Banine 5-0 in a slow-paced bout.

In contrast, the bout between American featherweights Oscar de La Hoya and Ivan Robinson was a non-stop slugfest that brought the crowd of 8,600 to their feet.

De La Hoya, at 17 the youngest boxer in the games, stood toe-to-toe with Robinson, 19, trading punches the entire nine minutes.

"When I beat older fighters I feel proud," said De La Hoya, who plans to move up to lightweight next year.

The showing by the relatively inexperienced U.S. team, which included just one world champion, drew attention.

"Years ago the Americans were very good," Akopkhanian said. "This team is a wonderful team. I think they're coming back."

Basketball

The U.S. women's basketball team reaffirmed their status as the world's best by beating the Soviet Union 82-70 Sunday to win the Goodwill Games gold.

The Americans, who last month retained their world championship, ran up a 43-33 halftime lead and held off the Soviets in the second half to extend their international winning streak to 41 games dating back to 1984.

Teresa Edwards led the winners with 16 points and Katrina McClain added 15 points and 14 rebounds.

Irina Shevchuk topped the Soviets' scoring with 17 points.

"I congratulate the best women's team in the world," Soviet coach Evgeni Gomelski said. "No question, the USA team is number one in women's world basketball."

Ice hockey

The U.S. ice hockey team narrowly missed performing another "miracle on ice."

The American icemen, beaten 10-1 by the Soviet Union earlier in the week, were 21 seconds

away from upsetting the Soviets for the gold medal Sunday, but lost after overtime in a soccer-style shootout.

The U.S. ice hockey team nearly scored its first victory over the Soviets since the much-touted miracle on ice — when the Americans beat the Soviet Union at the 1980 Lake Placid Olympic Games.

But it was not to be. With the U.S. leading 3-2 and 21 seconds left in regulation play, Soviet Valeri Kamensky completed a hat-trick to send the game into overtime.

After a 10-minute, scoreless sudden death period, the Americans found themselves facing their second shootout in two days.

Unlike Saturday, when they beat Canada 5-4 to advance to the final, the Americans came up short and the Soviets, Olympic and world champions, won 4-3. Sweden earned the bronze medal with a 6-1 victory over Canada.

In the water, East German Jan Hempel beat 1988 Olympic silver medallist Ni Xiong of China to win the men's 10-metre platform diving competition — the final medal event of the games.

Doping scandal

The Goodwill Games were hit by a doping scandal Sunday when officials announced that four athletes had tested positive for banned substances during a competition.

Neither the athletes nor their sports were identified by officials of the Soviet-American Joint Commission against doping, which supervised testing for the 21-sport competition.

"They were not in the same sport," Baaron Pittenger, co-chairman of the commission, told Reuters.

Two of the positive tests involved over-the-counter drugs, but Pittenger would not elaborate. "We've said what we are going to say," he said.

Pittenger said the positive tests were reported to the various sport federations for action.

The four positive tests were found among 493 tests conducted in 18 sports during the first 16 days of the 17-day games, which ended Sunday.

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JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1990 7

Economy

Fuel prices quadruple

Lebanese currency plummets to 710 for one U.S. dollar

BEIRUT (AP) — The Lebanese currency plummeted and fuel prices shot up Monday as a result of failure to reach a political settlement in Lebanon's civil war and Iraq's take-over of Kuwait.

The lira fell to an all-time low on the money market, closing in Beirut trading Monday settling at 710 to \$1.

The Lebanese lira was one of the soundest Middle Eastern currencies before the 1975 outbreak of the civil war trading at 2.5 liras to \$1.

Fuel prices have quadrupled since Iraq's move into Kuwait Thursday. A twenty-litre can of gasoline rose from 2,800 liras (roughly \$41 to 8,000 liras (\$16).

Lebanon imports all its fuel needs. There has been an acute

fuel shortage in the market lately.

Long queues of motorists have been forming at filling stations for days in both sectors of the capital as well as other large cities and towns.

The oil ministry blamed the sharp rise on unidentified pro-

teeters and said two fuel tankers were expected to arrive later this week with 33,000 tons of gasoline.

Financial sources at Lebanon's central bank attributed the new decline of the currency to the government's inability to resolve internal mini wars plaguing Lebanon's major sectors.

The inability of President Elias Hrawi's central government to resolve the conflicts has initiated the latest currency depreciation.

With their own energy resources. The government said the ban would stay until Iraq withdrew its troops from Kuwait and returned the emir to power.

Iraq and Kuwait supplied about 12 per cent of Japan's oil in the first six months of 1990, a Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) official told reporters.

The Japanese government, following a similar decision by the United States, announced the complete ban on oil imports from Iraq as part of a package of economic sanctions.

A MITI official said all products in general were included in the ban but it was not yet clear whether all products, such as liquefied petroleum gas, would be included.

In terms of the effects of a possible disruption of oil flows, "everything hinges on how long the conflict will last," said Naoshi Kojima, chief economist at the

Japanese Institute of Middle Eastern Economics, before the ban was announced.

"Japan would be all right if it is only for a few months and would be able to cover its needs with oil from its stocks and other suppliers," he said.

Muto said Japan would seek extra supplies in the world market if the sanctions remained in effect for long.

Industry sources said reduced supplies from Iraq and Kuwait would be covered for a time by increased production from other exporters including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iran, Venezuela and North African countries.

One analyst for a leading Japanese refiner said the combined surplus production capacity of Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Venezuela was almost equal to the united current production of Iraq and Kuwait of four million barrels per day.

Most of the senior managers, engineers, and technicians backing or supervising Kuwaitis in all sectors are Americans, Europeans, Japanese, and South Koreans.

The Iraqi-backed government said on Sunday that "countries that resort to punitive measures (sanctions) against the provisional free Kuwaiti government and fraternal Iraq... should remember that they have interests and nationals in Kuwait."

This thinly veiled threat has probably wrecked any chance that Iraq could retain the help of skilled foreigners, let alone attract more Western diplomats said.

At this time of year, no one is sure how many of the expatriates are in Kuwait. During the scorching summer, when temperatures soar into the 50s, there is a major exodus of wives and children, and many of the white-collar workers also take leave in July and August.

But Norway's North Sea output sank in July from June due to a brief oil workers' strike and seemed destined to remain low in August and September due to routine shutdowns for maintenance.

London brokers County Northwest Woodmac have predicted Norway's oil and natural gas liquids production would average 1.5 million b/d in the third quarter of 1990 and rebound to a record above 1.9 million in the fourth quarter.

"We cannot put off maintenance, this is required to enable us to have high production for the rest of the year," Statoil's Steine said.

Other North Sea oil firms have also said they were unable to delay maintenance, under which several major platforms will close for two weeks or so at a time. The main closure now is at Statoil B platform, which usually pumps around 230,000 b/d.

Other sectors of the Kuwait economy and infrastructure could face disaster.

"There is no way the Iraqis can keep this economy going," said a European bank manager familiar with Kuwait.

Delays in maintenance could

Oil prices head towards \$27 a barrel

LONDON (R) — Oil prices soared Monday because of fears of a wider Gulf conflict and chaos over supplies after major nations boycotted exports from Iraq and Iraqi-held Kuwait.

London futures prices for the world benchmark crude Brent blend, from Britain's North Sea, hit a high at \$26.80 per barrel for September delivery against \$23.48 at Friday's close.

"It has been absolute pandemonium in the market," said Peter Gignoux, a London-based director with trading house Shearson Lehman Hutton.

With tankers no longer calling to pick up oil, Iraq Monday closed one of its pipelines taking exported crude across Turkey.

The oil market has been in turmoil since Iraq invaded Kuwait at dawn last Thursday, causing tension in a region supplying a fifth of Western oil.

Concerns that Baghdad might invade Saudi Arabia, OPEC's biggest exporters, have fanned ten-

sion.

Brent is up more than \$3 from Friday. The Brent price, a key indicator of what crude fetches around the globe, has soared more than 75 per cent from around \$15 in mid-June, largely because of tension in the Gulf.

It has not been as high since December 1985, just before OPEC states began ignoring quotas in a scramble for oil revenue. Cheap energy since then has helped to fuel the longest post-World War II global economic expansion on record.

Peter Nicol, a director of oil

research with Warburg Securities in London, said that embargoes now imposed on Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude by the United States, the 12-nation European Community and Japan had caused "a huge supply dislocation."

Companies which could not lift

Iraqi or Kuwaiti oil any more

were scrambling to get supplies

from elsewhere — "crude you thought you had in your supply chain is no longer there."

World stocks are at eight-year highs, with cover for about 100 days because of recent excess OPEC production. But oil firms are still searching for crude rather than tap their stocks.

"There is a natural instinct to hoard," Nicol said.

"People are reluctant to use stocks before they know how bad things will get. The nightmare scenario is that we may go to war because of conflict and damage to oil facilities," he noted.

Iran's oil minister, Gholamreza Aqazadeh, estimated on Monday that actual volume lost by the embargoes that have been announced so far will be about three million barrels per day (b/d) or about 13 per cent of OPEC supply.

Aqazadeh said some 4.6 million barrels were to have been produced by Iraq and Kuwait

under OPEC quota rules.

"If we deduct domestic consumption and if a boycott against Iraq is effected which will never be 100 per cent then we will be talking about something like three million," Aqazadeh said.

There was "more than this floating in tankers," and he thought stocks ought to cover the loss.

Oil supply analysts said his arithmetic might be right.

But they did not take account of the concern that the crisis could escalate with a possible blockade of Iraq under mandatory U.N. sanctions or a "nightmare scenario" of war between Iraq and a U.S.-backed Saudi Arabia.

Other industry officials said that in a week or so, if the price spiral continued, Western nations might have to ask Saudi Arabia to make up lost Iraqi and Kuwaiti volumes.

Iraq would be furious if it thought its Arab neighbour would do so, industry experts

said.

The West's need for Saudi oil was seen by industry officials as a more pressing reason for offering the kingdom Western military guarantees than any notion of getting it to shut a pipeline taking Iraqi crude across its territory in order to punish Baghdad.

Closing pipelines that cross both Turkey and Saudi Arabia or blocking their Mediterranean and Red Sea outlets were apparently seen by the United States as a next option if the oil embargoes did not force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

To make up shortages, Saudi Arabia could raise daily output by at least 1.5 million barrels with 700,000 more coming from the neighbouring United Arab Emirates.

Industry supply officials reckon that among others Venezuela, Nigeria, Mexico, Egypt and Norway could produce more. But in a tight market, Saudi Arabia might be crucial.

Kuwaiti businesses depend on expatriates

DUBAI (R) — Banking in the Gulf is already showing signs of strain because of the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, bankers said Monday.

Many banks face defaults on Kuwaiti payments and lenders are being scared out of the system.

"They call and I'll offer eight, 7 1/4 per cent. Next time I'll offer them 8 1/4, 7 1/2. Next time 8 3/4 eight," he said.

"By putting up rates, banks are saying they are not willing to deal until we see what happens. There is a degree of panic in the market," said a European bank manager in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Dealers in Saudi Arabia, by far the biggest Gulf economy, said there was no liquidity shortage in the kingdom and recent slowness in the economy had led to a larger-than-normal seasonal cash buildup.

Bankers were watching for responses to the crisis from the Kuwaiti banks whose headquar-

ters may now be controlled by Iraqis.

Bankers contacted said they had heard nothing from the National Bank of Kuwait, but some private Kuwaiti banks had started telexing creditors to make their positions clear.

A National Bank spokesman in Bahrain declined to comment.

Bahrain's large regional offshore banking centre is particularly vulnerable to economic shocks like the Iraqi invasion because the tiny island economy has no deep deposit base from which banks can draw cash.

Bankers predicted that in the long run, foreign banks and small Gulf Arab banks would be the biggest losers in the current crisis because of their thin deposit base.

The bigger Gulf banks, especially the national ones, act as treasurers for their governments and major Arab companies, which deposit huge amounts of cash.

"It's all money market-based, so as Kuwaiti defaults start to work through we have a kind of gradual bleeding effect which could eventually cause a hemorrhage," said a Bahrain banker.

All around the Gulf, financial institutions were quoting very wide spreads on Gulf currencies for individuals, mainly buyers of

Gulf banking shows signs of strain

then why do they keep calling me up looking for quotes every 15 minutes?" asked another Saudi banker.

He said dollar interbank rates for lending to such banks were being gradually racked up.

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ters may have fuelled inflation fears as oil prices have climbed, pressuring stock values worldwide.

The dollar traded sharply lower against the Deutsche mark as concerns about a weak U.S. economy and increased chances for lower interest rates overshadowed nervousness about Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

"The whole atmosphere is

gloom and doom," said Ted Eggert, manager of U.S. equity trading at Yamaichi International.

Turnover was light on the Tokyo stock market as few investors dared to buy.

"Trying to find issues that might rise today was like trying to find a needle in a haystack," said a broker at one of Japan's big four securities houses.

The slide followed sharp drops in the Tokyo and London markets. Tokyo's Nikkei average tumbled 916.23 points, or 3.10 per cent, to 28,599.53, and London shares were down sharply in afternoon trading, with the Financial Times-Stock Exchange index off 78 points, or 3.4 per cent.

The uncertain situation in Iraq

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Norway cannot raise oil output

OSLO (R) — Oil firms in Norway, which are closing many of their North Sea platforms for routine summer maintenance work, said Monday they were unable to raise output to make up for shortfalls caused by Iraq's take-over of Kuwait.

Fields operated by Statoil account for about one million

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, August 6, 1990		Central Bank official rates
Buy	Sell	French franc 124.7
659.0	663.0	Japanese yen (for 100) 439.7 442.3
1229.3	1236.7	Dutch guilder 371.1
415.6	418.1	Swedish krona 113.2 113.9
490.4	493.3	Italian lira 56.9 57.2
		Belgian franc (for 10) 201.7 202.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		

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Indian security forces arrest top leaders of Muslim separatists

SRINAGAR (Agencies) — Security forces on Monday arrested top leaders of a Muslim group spearheading the movement for secession of Kashmir from Hindu-majority India, officials said.

The two top leaders of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front and six other members of the group were arrested during raids on suspected militant hideouts in Srinagar, said state government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Within an hour of the arrest, shopkeepers began closing shops fearing violence. Authorities imposed an indefinite curfew preventing civilian movement on the streets.

The arrests of Yasin Malik, the "commander-in-chief" of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, and his deputy are a notable victory for the security forces. Malik was arrested in April but escaped from a hospital where he was undergoing treatment for injuries sustained in his capture.

Those who have seen Malik

recently said he still had an injured jaw but was alert and active.

Security officials said on Saturday they narrowly missed capturing Sheikh when they stopped his motorbike at a roadblock. He escaped in a hail of gunfire which killed his travelling companion, another leading militant, they said.

About 1,000 people have been killed since the uprising, centred on the Kashmir valley, burst into new heights of violence in January.

Tens of thousands of Indian soldiers and paramilitary police have been drafted into the region to crush a revolt that has almost complete support in the overwhelmingly Muslim valley.

India accuses Muslim Pakistan of arming and training the militants in hopes of breaking Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, away from India.

Pakistan denies the charge, saying poor government prompted the uprising.

In a statement on Sunday, the defence ministry said: "The government has taken steps to strengthen security in all Muslim areas. Security forces as well as police and home (civil) guards have been deployed in large numbers."

The statement said Muslims, who form nearly 35 per cent of the population of eastern province, have resisted attempts by the Tigers to absorb them into a single Tamil homeland which they are fighting for in the north and east.

The Tigers launched a fresh offensive against security forces in June. More than 1,850 rebels, security force members and civilians have died in the ensuing war, according to unofficial estimates.

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Farook said Muslims held the government responsible for the massacres because no security had been provided despite repeated appeals.

There were reports that Muslims were retaliating.

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They assaulted and injured two Tamils standing near the temple before police dispersed the angry crowd.

A Tiger spokesman in Paris

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A Tiger spokesman in Paris

Ethnic strife deepens in Sri Lanka

18 Muslims hacked to death

COLOMBO (R) — Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels hacked to death 18 Sri Lankan Muslims they abducted on Sunday in a second violent attack on the religious group, military sources and Muslim leaders said Monday.

A Muslim leader said the 18 were among 40 Muslims abducted while harvesting rice in Eastern Amparai district by guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam who are fighting for a separate homeland.

"The bodies of 18 of them were found hacked to death today (Monday)," said Waft Farook, treasurer of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress. "No doubt the other 22 will also be killed because the Tigers don't release any of those whom they abduct."

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